

meeting him or knowing him personally, he touched the lives of every single person in his presence. Reverend James' passion was spreading the word of God, and teaching the people in Harlem to embrace and love the Lord and Jesus. His exuberance for his job was infectious and affected everyone around him.

Harlem has come a long way over the years, and we have seen a huge amount of revitalization in my District. I know that a lot of this can be contributed to the work of Reverend James. He was a strong advocate of educational advancement. The Reverend saw education as a way to create an equal playing field for everyone, giving the underprivileged the opportunity to achieve success and the American Dream.

Reverend James was a well-connected man, but never used his connections for personal gain. Instead, through his close relationship to lawmakers, such as myself, Senator Hillary Clinton, and Mayor Dave Dinkins, Reverend James was able to fight for the people of Harlem with others whose only goal in life is to improve the lives of all New Yorkers.

Education wasn't the only thing that Reverend James fought for during his life. He was also a huge supporter of the Arts. Reverend James dedicated a great deal of time to preserving the world famous Harlem landmark, the Apollo Theater. He considered it an important link for future generations to Harlem's important musical past. Reverend James also was the Chairperson of the Harlem Urban Development Corporation that works to develop economic and industrial opportunities in order to create positive growth and change in Harlem.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me and the New York Congressional Delegation in paying tribute to Harlem's beloved Reverend. Reverend William James guided the people of Harlem with compassion and tenderness. His spirituality and faith in God guided him throughout his life's quest to enhance the lives of the underprivileged. He will be forever missed all the people of Harlem and by everyone who's life he touched.

#### HONORING TEMPLE BETH EL

#### HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 11, 2013*

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker. I rise to honor the congregation of Temple Beth El and its leadership for 90 years of spiritual and interfaith service to the San Pedro, Palos Verdes, and greater South Bay community. I am proud to recognize Temple Beth El for the extraordinary work it has done in my community, and for the work it will continue to do in the years ahead.

As one of the oldest synagogues in Los Angeles, Temple Beth El has long been a vibrant part of the San Pedro, Palos Verdes, and greater South Bay community. Through its array of educational, cultural, and musical programming, Temple Beth El has built a second home for Jewish Los Angelenos, where spiritual fulfillment, interfaith inclusion, and social action thrive. The community's spiritual vivacity lies in its congregation and its leadership.

As a community leader, Rabbi Charles Briskin serves his Jewish and interfaith com-

munities alike. He nurtures the South Bay Jewish community by actively engaging in congregants' lives and facilitating dialogue on how to marry Jewish ethos with the trials of everyday life. Outside the Temple's walls, he contributes to interfaith understanding through his work at the Peninsula Interfaith Fellowship, his service on the Board of Directors for Harbor Interfaith Services, and his contributions to the Palos Verdes Peninsula News Clergy Viewpoints column.

Serving Temple Beth El for nearly 20 years, Cantor Ilan Davidson brightens any Temple gathering with his rich musical heritage. From leading congregational worship to preparing B'nai Mitzvah students for their big day, Cantor Davidson brings the music of the Jewish people to life.

Debi Rowe dedicates her life to furthering Jewish understanding through education. In her career, Debi has authored books on religious education, served on the national board of the National Association of Temple Educators, and trained countless teachers. Debi was rightfully recognized for her work when she received the Lanier Distinguished Educator Award for Religious School Educators.

I commend Temple Beth El for their leadership in fostering the spiritual and cultural vitality of my district. What began in 1922 as a religious gathering amongst 25 Jewish families in San Pedro has blossomed into a multi-facility, region-wide cultural and spiritual community. I am tremendously grateful for the profound impact Temple Beth El, its congregation, and its leadership have had in shaping my community over the last 90 years.

#### THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE PRESENTS "THE GREAT DEBATE" IN THE VILLAGE OF HARLEM USA

#### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 11, 2013*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) for presenting the National Great Debate Series.

On Saturday, March 2, the NAACP New York State Conference, under the leadership of Dr. Hazel N. Dukes in partnership with Starbucks, NAACP Region II Youth and College Division, the NAACP Connecticut State Conference, Bill Lynch Associates and Positive Workforce, Inc. hosted in New York City's Village of Harlem's First Corinthian Baptist Church "The Great Debate"—Howard University vs Columbia University.

For the first time, this highly acclaimed event took place outside of an academic building in hopes of stimulating the consciousness and interest of young people who might not otherwise be exposed to debates as a platform for the advancement of civil rights issues and education. Over 1600 youth and community leaders from Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, Connecticut, and New York converged at Harlem's historic First Corinthian Baptist Church to witness, support and participate in "The Great Debate".

Inspired by Denzel Washington's 2007 movie, "The Great Debaters" in 2008, Con-

necticut State Conference President Scot X. Esdaile, created the "NAACP Great Debate series". The debate series, which is one of a kind in the country, brings together highly acclaimed debate teams from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's) to compete against their Ivy League counterparts.

The teams debate some of the most pressing social, cultural, and political issues of today. The first debate was held at Woolsey Hall on the Yale University campus where students from Howard University and Yale University demonstrated their oral prowess. Since this first debate, interest in the series has grown exponentially. In 2011, Howard University squared off against Yale University on the topics of charter schools and District of Columbia (D.C.) statehood. In 2012, the Youth & College Division hosted the Great Debate between Wiley University and Harvard University during the 103rd Annual NAACP National Convention in Houston, Texas in a debate over the controversial "Stand Your Ground" law. This year, moderated by Drexel University's Dr. Charles A. Williams, III, Howard University and Columbia University debated over New York City's Police Department controversial Stop and Frisk Policy, and also debated whether hand guns should be banned in urban cities nationwide.

As Dean of the New York Congressional Delegation, let me congratulate my sister, Hazel N. Dukes, President of the NAACP New York State Conference, Scot X. Esdaile, President of the Connecticut State Conference and Marvin Bing, Director of Region II for bringing the NAACP Debate Series to New York City and my Congressional District. I also want to give special praise and thanks to Senior Pastor, Reverend Michael A. Walrond, Jr. and First Lady and Executive Pastor, Dr. Lakeesha Walrond of the First Corinthian Baptist Church for hosting this historic debate at Harlem's landmarked faith based institution.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, the 50th anniversary of the March On Washington, the 100th Birthday of Rosa Parks, let us also celebrate the 104 years of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People that has dedicated its life's advocacy and game changing work, under the leadership of Chairman Roslyn M. Brock and President and Chief Executive Officer Benjamin Todd Jealous to enhancing Civic Engagement, Criminal Justice, Economic Development, Education and Health for all Americans across this Nation.

#### IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF GLYNIS BROWN

#### HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 11, 2013*

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Glynis Brown, a kind woman who was devoted to her family, church and friends. She had a warm and kind spirit, a passion for the helping others and serving her Church.

Sister Brown was a long time resident of Fort Worth. She matriculated through the Fort Worth Independent School District and graduated from Eastern Hills High School. She